53:Tokarev and Gurvich E-4 (no date) 1964
RV2 Yakut RV2

particular by the poorer people who had no cattle, although it was also a secondary diet for the wealthier groups in the population. In the summer, people used to eat fresh fish boiled in water or slightly fried (carp and other small fish), on spikes or in a frying pan (the scales were removed but the innards were left untouched). A great deal of fish was stocked up for the winter, pickled in bark-lined pits; the acidified and half-rotten fish—syma—was then frozen and used to make butugas as a substitute for milk tar. The more valuable types of fish, particularly steriet, white salmon, and whitefish of various types, were consumed in the raw, frozen form.

With rare exceptions, meat was eaten only in the wealthier households. Most highly valued was horsemeat, but even among the rich it was not served too often. Beef was eaten more frequently. The meat of various other animals, especially in the northern hunting regions, was also eaten. It was usually boiled (though attempts were made not to overcook it), and sometimes roasted in the old manner on wooden spikes. Fat was specially highly valued. The carcasses of slaughtered cattle were kept for the winter in frozen form. The Yakuts did not eat certain types of wild animals and birds—beasts of prey, sea gulls, ravens, cuckoos and owls—and they refused to eat the brains of domestic animals. During the 19th century, under Russian influence, bread began to be eaten and later salt, sugar and tea became part of the diet of the Yakuts. Dealers brought in vodka to the ulusy.

Hygiene

The living conditions of the Yakuts before the Revolution were extremely unhygienic. As a result of the filth, overcrowding and stagnant air in the yurt with its earthen floor and cattle-shed right next door conditions were completely abnormal. Furthermore, the Yakuts, particularly in winter, rarely washed themselves, and the washing of clothes was practically unknown.

Under the circumstances it is not surprising that there were frequent epidemics. Skin diseases were particularly rampant, and mange, ringworm, ulcers, and so on were due to the permanent contamination of the skin. Eye diseases (trachoma, etc.) were very common, particularly among the older people, a large number of whom lost their sight. According to the 1915 census, there were 110 blind people per 10,000 Yakuts. True leprosy existed in some of the damp, marshy regions; isolation shelters for lepers were arranged in out of the way spots. Tuberculosis was quite common.

Nervous disorders were widespread in the northern regions of Yakutiya, particularly among women, which was due to the difficult living conditions, exhausting work, and to a number of women's diseases, etc. The nervous disorders took such forms as Arctic hysteria, the so-called menerik, which is something like epilepsy; the sick woman throws a fit during which she shouts and raves until she falls asleep exhausted. Another, similar nervous disorder was *amurpaz*; the symptoms are an unconscious, involuntary imitation of anything which frightens or astonishes the sufferer.

The Yakuts had no rational method of treating these ailments. They often used primitive domestic cures such as cauterizing, licking the pus from sores and so on. It was usual during sickness to resort to quack doctors and shamans.

Social Structure

The social structure of the Yakuts, as it had developed by the time of the October Revolution, was a peculiar mishmash of complex forms of

177 taken place in such forms of communication as radio, telegraph and tele-
206 phone. Compared with 1940 the number of radio points in 1952 was more
207 than doubled. By this time communication had been established between Yakutsk and rural localities and machine-tractor stations, and 225 nasleg soviets had been linked by telephone. Many rayons and nasleg soviets are now equipped with radios.

205 The extent of the postal routes is 65,000 kilometers, practically twice the length of the equator.

Towns and Cities

633 The capital of the Yakut ASSR is the city of Yakutsk, which used to be the oblast center. Here are concentrated the most important Yakut Republic offices, ministries, banks, scientific institutes, and higher and secondary schools. During the Soviet period Yakutsk has been turned into a major
[365] industrial center. The water system laid in Yakutsk has the deepest water-intake point in the world. The problem of obtaining subsoil water for this water system was an extremely difficult one because of the permafrost. Engineers worked hard to solve this problem even before the Revolution, though never successfully. Soviet technicians and working people have solved it. Subpermafrost water is now fed into the main water supply. Stone bathhouses, mechanized laundries, barbershops and other such enterprises for the personal use of the population did not come into being until the Soviet regime. The streets of the city are paved with wood blocks and sidewalks have been constructed. Yakutsk is rapidly developing.

Over the last few years Yakutsk has been changing from wooden buildings to brick and sometimes reinforced concrete buildings. Bus routes between the city and neighboring regions are now in operation.

871 In Yakutsk there are 22 secondary, seven-year and primary schools.
368 They are attended by about 9000 children. In the city there are 16 tekhnikums, various courses, and a pedagogical institute, a Yakut Theatre of Music and Drama, a Russian drama theatre, two movie houses and seven clubs. The Pushkin Science Library, the Yaroslavskiy Yakutsk Regional Museum and the Yakutsk Museum of Fine Arts are great favorites with the citizens.

743 There are hospitals in the city and it is also there that the research
744 institutes and laboratories are to be found. In 1947 a research base of the USSR Academy of Sciences was opened there, and in 1949 it was turned into the Yakutsk branch of the Academy. In the same year there was opened a Yakutsk branch of the Tuberculosis Institute of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Agriculture

241 In pre-Revolutionary Yakutiya the poor and middle peasant families
233 totaled more than 80 percent of all households. One-seventh of all the
565 households were entirely without sowings, and many were only able to sow a few hundredths of a hectare each. Most of the households (97 percent) had to do without factory-made agricultural implements. Stockbreeding produced extremely poor results. The owners of large areas of land and abundant livestock i.e.,—the kulaks and toyons, grew rich, but not so much by raising the level of land cultivation and animal husbandry as by exploiting the poor and middle peasants.

53:Tokarev and Gurvich E-4 (no date) 1964
RV2 Yakut RV2

people have been taught to read and write. Work continues with those who are only partially literate in the network of adult schools.

In 1917 there were only two clubs, three small libraries and one museum in Yakutiya. In 1951 the Republic had more than 1000 educational-cultural establishments, among which there were about 500 reading rooms, several hundred libraries and 5 museums. At the present time there are Party schools in all rayons. In 1948, 986 amateur music and entertainment groups were functioning in the various clubs. There are regular amateur art exhibitions in the clubs and houses of culture. In the north, e.g., the Anabarskiy, Olenekskiy and other rayons,—Red tents with mobile film units have been set up for the population of the tundra.

Public Health

Planned medical assistance was not provided for the population of Yakutiya until the coming of the Soviet regime. By 1927 there were 37 hospitals, 50 medical-assistant points with 627 beds, and 20 outpatient clinics in the Republic. Over the years of the Five-Year Plans the medical network has been greatly increased. There are now more than 630 medical establishments in the Republic, which employ 500 doctors and more than 2500 personnel with intermediate medical training.

An important health center has been created in Yakutsk. The Republic hospital with 500 beds consists of several large standard blocks. It is fitted out with the latest medical equipment. There are also a number of specialized hospitals in Yakutiya. The 33 epidemiological stations and bacteriological laboratories are working hard; more than 500 clinical laboratories have been set up. Vaccination against measles, tularemia, etc. is carried out at a number of laboratories. Since 1940 medical assistance has been given to the population of the most remote parts of the Republic by aircraft. Flying surgeons performed 183 operations in the year 1951 alone.

The Yakuts have made great progress in safeguarding pregnant mothers and infants. In 1924 the first obstetric consultation office in the Republic was opened. In 1940 there were 9 state-owned maternity homes, 37 collective farm maternity homes and 37 permanent nurseries in service. In 1952 the number of nurseries had been raised to 82, with accommodation for 2644 children.

Particular attention has been given by the Yakut government to the campaign against a legacy of the past, i.e., such social diseases as tuberculosis and trachoma. A wide network of medical and disease-prevention establishments has been set up. Every man, woman and child undergoes tests for tuberculosis, and practically all the regional hospitals are equipped with X-ray apparatus. Antitubercular inoculation is normal practice.

In 1924 a special brigade was sent to Yakutiya from the center to make a study of different parts of the Yakut ASSR on the prevalence of trachoma. In 1945 the first trachoma clinic was opened. The incidence of trachoma has sharply declined as a result of tremendous work in preventive medicine and hygiene education; blindness due to trachoma has been reduced to nil. In many places there have been set up interrayon centers where specialized medical aid can be obtained. There are two mudbath resorts in Yakutiya.

The number of medical officials has sharply increased. In 1952, as compared with 1922, the number of doctors had increased by a factor of 30, while there were 26 times more personnel with intermediate medical training.